

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-51 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-17, 18 and 35 are amended. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

The courtesies extended to Applicant's representatives by Examiner Pham and Examiner Garcia at the interview held June 29, 2004, are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below.

Claims 1, 18 and 35 are amended to recite "initiating a save conflict mode from the printer when a user observes an undesirable result from the printer in response to user specified print job attributes." In this manner, the claims further clarify how the conflict is identified as well as the a priori nature of the identified conflict, as discussed at the interview. Applicants respectfully submit that support for the amendments to the claims is found throughout the specification. For example, support for the amended claims may be found at page 2, lines 17-23; page 3, lines 27-28; page 1, lines 3-6; page 1, line 8, through page 2, line 23; page 2, line 25, through page 3, line 9; page 3, line 25, through page 4, line 6; FIGS. 2-3 with related text at page 5, line 3, through page 6, line 4; and FIGS. 5-6 with related text at page 11, line 13, through page 12, line 29; page 7, line 15-29; page 11, lines 13-29; and, page 12, lines 1-7.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration, (since the amendments merely amplify issues discussed throughout prosecution); and (c) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

A. Claims 1-2, 5-6, 10, 12-13, 18-19, 22-23, 27, 29-30, 35-36, 39-40, 44, and 46-47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,467,434 to Hower et al. ("Hower"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1, 18 and 35 recite "initiating a save conflict mode from the printer when a user observes an undesirable result from the printer in response to user specified print job attributes." Applicants respectfully submit that Hower does not disclose, teach or suggest this feature recited in independent claims 1, 18 and 35.

Hower describes a system that provides print processing for various workstations or clients (col. 3, lines 50-51). The system includes a central server 25 (Fig. 2) that includes "one or more print queues .... Each of the print queues is mapped to one of configuration files or printer profiles .... Each of the printer profiles includes a list of printer properties ...." (col. 4, lines 28-34). Use of the system described in Hower includes comparing a "subset of a set of printer properties of [an] accessed printer profile with [a] programmed combination of print job selections to determine whether the combination of print job selections corresponds with [a] subset of the set of printer properties" (col. 10, lines 45-49). Use of the system in Hower further includes "transmitting a fault message to a selected one of [a] user interface and the server when the combination of print job selections does not correspond with the subset of the set of printer properties" (col. 10, lines 55-59).

The system described in Hower is used to direct print jobs, originating from client devices connected to a network, to an appropriate network printer, selected from a plurality of network accessible printers, based upon an assessment of the print job characteristics and the characteristics of the available network printers. Each networked printer has an associated printer profile that is stored upon a central network server. Characteristics of a client print job are compared to printer characteristics contained within the respective printer profiles, in order to identify a printer capable of executing the print job. The printers in Hower are not

involved in the process of defining and maintaining the set of printer profiles, nor do the printers participate in the print job screening process based upon the printer profiles maintained upon the central server. Further, the profile based screen service in Hower is a network layer service that is transparent to the printers.

In the specification at page 1, line 9, through page 2, line 9, Applicants acknowledge prior art (some of which has been cited by the Examiner in the current Office Action) that discloses printers that include conflict checking based upon the known, or updated, printer configurations. However, as stated in the specification at page 2, lines 10-13, "known machines do not permit customizing the checker with a user defined situation, that is not otherwise a conflict, to be regarded as a conflict by the printing machine's programming conflict checker. The ability for user defined situations to be regarded as a conflict is desirable in a number of instances." In other words, as stated in the specification at page 2, line 25, through page 3, line 3, such prior art does not support conflict checking based upon conditions not available as *a priori* information. Examples of conflict conditions that are not available as *a priori* information are provided in the specification at page 2, lines 13 - 23; page 7, line 15-29; page 11, lines 13-29; and, page 12, lines 1-7. Applicants respectfully submit that the feature "initiating a save conflict mode from the printer when a user observes an undesirable result from the printer in response to user specified print job attributes," further distinguishes the claim from the acknowledge prior art by emphasizing support for capturing *a priori* printer conflict conditions.

Based upon the above, Applicants respectfully submit that Hower does not disclose, teach or suggest "initiating a save conflict mode from the printer upon a user observing an undesirable result from the printer in response to user specified print job attributes," thereby allowing a user to store a user defined conflict by one of "storing the user specified print job attributes in a conflict list while in the save conflict mode and storing user specified conflict

attributes based on user specified print job attributes while in the save conflict mode," as required by the claims.

For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1, 18 and 35 are patentably distinguishable over the applied art as discussed in detail below. Claims 2, 5-6, 10, 12-13, 19, 22-23, 27, 29-30, 36, 39-40, 44 and 46-47 are likewise patentably distinguishable over the applied art for at least their dependence on claims 1, 18 and 35, respectively, as well as for the additional features they recite.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

**B.** Claims 3-4, 20-21 and 37-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Hower in view of U.S. Patent 6,166,826 to Yokoyama. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above, Hower fails to disclose the combination of features recited in independent claims 1, 18 and 35. Yokoyama fails to overcome the above-described deficiencies of Hower with respect to the independent claims. Therefore, dependent claims 3-4, 20-21 and 37-38 are allowable at least for their dependence on allowable base claims 1, 18 and 35, respectively, as well as for the additional features they recite.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

**C.** The Office Action rejects claims 7, 11, 14, 17, 24, 28, 31, 34, 41, 45, 48 and 51 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Hower in view of U.S. Patent 6,335,795 to Neuhard et al. ("Neuhard") and U.S. Patent 5,260,805 to Barrett. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above, Hower fails to disclose the combination of features recited in independent claims 1, 18 and 35. Neuhard and Barrett fail to overcome the above-described deficiencies of Hower with respect to the independent claims. Therefore, dependent claims 7, 11, 14, 17, 24, 28, 31, 34, 41, 45, 48 and 51 are allowable at least for their dependence on

allowable base claims 1, 18 and 35, respectively, as well as for the additional features they recite.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

**D.** The Office Action rejects claims 8-9, 15-16, 25-26, 32-33, 42-43 and 49-50 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Hower, Barrett and Neuhard as applied to 7, 14, 24, 31, 41, and 48, above, and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,166,826 to Yokoyama. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above, Hower fails to disclose the combination of features recited in independent claims 1, 18 and 35. Neuhard, Barrett and Yokoyama fail to overcome the above-described deficiencies of Hower with respect to the independent claims. Therefore, dependent claims 8-9, 15-16, 25-26, 32-33, 42-43 and 49-50 are allowable at least for their dependence on allowable base claims 1, 18 and 35, respectively, as well as for the additional features they recite.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-51 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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